

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 14 and 16-35 have been cancelled. New claim 36 has been added. Claim 36 is pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 14 and 16-35 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsukamoto et al. (US 2002/0048033) (hereinafter "Tsukamoto").

Claims 14 and 16-35 have been cancelled.

NEW CLAIM

New claim 36 has been added to present an alternate recitation of the present invention. New claim 36 recites A method for use in an image processing apparatus, the method comprising: executing a main program in the image processing apparatus, wherein the main program is automatically executed in response to powering on of the image processing apparatus; removably receiving a portable storage unit in an interface of the image processing apparatus; determining whether the portable storage unit includes an execution file relating to the main program loaded in a memory of the image processing apparatus; and executing the execution file stored in the portable storage unit as a plug-in program of the main program loaded in a memory of the image processing apparatus, wherein the plug-in program does not have an independent interface and can only be used by being connected with the main program and provides additional function to the main program that was not previously supported by the main program.

It is respectfully submitted that new claim 36 patentably distinguishes over the relied upon prior art. In particular, new claim 36 clarifies that the plug in program adds additional functions that are not supported by the main program. Specifically, the plug in program of claim 36 does not change an old feature to a new feature, which the Examiner noted was anticipated by Tsukamoto in the rejection of claim 24, which has been cancelled.

Further, in the Office Action on page 7 dealing with the rejection of claim 17, the Examiner notes that in Tsukamoto, since the program in the ROM instructs the CPU to utilize a program in the interface cards to perform a feature on the apparatus, the implementation of the program by the CPU is considered analogous to the connection between a main program and a file for executing a function. In addition, paragraph [0117] of Tsukamoto discusses: "...if a

storage enabled card, such as a memory card or a hard disk card, set in an empty card slot 122(or 121) stores a program for controlling the modem card with the NCU and data."

Accordingly, referring to the above description, Tsukamoto discloses that the program stored in the program IC card stores a program necessary for CPU to operate a new modem card, that is, an interface card. The interface card is a hardware apparatus which replaces a conventional modem 118. Therefore, the program of Tsukamoto is distinct from the plug in program of claim 36, which recites that the **plug in program** provides additional functions to the main program of an image forming apparatus, and is **not a program for replacing a conventional function or operating certain hardware**.

No new matter has been added, and entry and consideration are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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